



NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The Draft Removal Action Workplan For The New Independence High School Is Available For Review Bakersfield, California



PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: November 15, 2006 through December 14, 2006

WHAT'S BEING PROPOSED?

The Kern High School District (KHSD) plans to construct a new high school, known as Independence High School (Site) located at the intersection of Old River Road and McCutchen Road, Bakersfield, California. Relieving the existing high schools from the burden of over-crowding, the new high school will house over 1,000 students by the year 2008 and over 2,000 students by the year 2010.

The 57-acre Site was used for agricultural activities since the 1940's. Fifty five acres of the Site was used for farming. A 0.6-acre area located in the southeast corner of the Site had a house and sheds. In 2006, the house was moved and the sheds were demolished. In 1952 Destefani Farms placed an operations yard in the southwest corner of the Site. The 1.4-acre operations yard included buildings and areas for equipment and chemical storage, maintenance, and mixing of agricultural related chemicals.

The Kern High School District prepared a draft Removal Action Workplan that describes the investigation, contamination found, and the proposed activities for cleanup of the site, to be completed prior to school construction.

The Draft RAW proposes removal and off-site disposal of approximately 20 cubic yards (2-3 truckloads) of soil containing lead, organochlorine herbicides, petroleum hydrocarbons at the proposed Site.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT - NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

DTSC evaluated any possible impacts of the removal action for this project, as required by the California Environmental Quality Act. DTSC has prepared a draft Notice of Exemption (NOE) which states that this removal action will not have significant impacts on the environment. The draft NOE is available for public review, along with other supporting documents.

WHY THIS NOTICE?

The purpose of this notice is to provide you with the opportunity to learn more about the project and to provide comments to DTSC, concerning the proposed soil removal action, within thirty (30) days of this notice.

HOW DO I PARTICIPATE?

Your participation is encouraged. Comments concerning the Draft RAW may be submitted in writing to Mr. Neal Hutchison, DTSC Project Manager, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, California 95826, or email:

Hhutchis@dtsc.ca.gov. All mail must be postmarked by 5 PM on December 14, 2006. Emailed comments must be received by DTSC no later than 5 PM on the same date.

WHERE DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

A copy of the Draft RAW and NOE are available for review in the Information Repositories located at Beale Memorial Library – Main Branch, Administrative Office, 701 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301, or Kern High School District, Attention: Business Services, 5801 Sundale Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93309, and Department of Toxic Substances Control, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, California 95826.

CONTACT:

If you have any questions or wish to discuss the project, please contact Mr. Neal Hutchison, DTSC Project Manager, at (916) 255-4369 or by e-mail to Hhutchis@dtsc.ca.gov. For public participation activities, please contact Ms. Kim Rhodes, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, at (916) 255-3651 or by e-mail to Krhodes1@dtsc.ca.gov. Members of the media should contact Ms. Jeanne Garcia, DTSC Public Information Officer, at (818) 551-2176 or by email to Jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov.